(a) whether it is a fact that Petronet LNG is registered as a private company;

(b) if so, the details of the Board Members of this company including the purpose for which this company was formed;

(c) whether the company has achieved the targets set by Government or its Board since its inception;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to relax the eligibility criteria for appointment of CEO of Petronet LNG; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) is registered as a private limited company under the Companies Act, 1956. PLL is promoted as a Joint Venture Company by GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) with 12.5% equity each. Balance 50% equity is with Gaz de France (10%), Asian Development Bank (5.2%) and with the Public/ Financial Institutions (34.8%).

(b) At present, there are three functional Board members of the Company including CEO&MD. Secretary (P&NG) is the ex-officio Chairman of the Company. ONGC, IOC, BPCL, GAIL, Gaz De France and ADB have one nominee Director each. Besides this, there are four more independent Directors in the Company. PLL was formed *inter alia,* to import, regassify and store LNG.

(c) and (d) PLL has successfully completed setting up of a 5.0 MMTPA LNG import and regassification terminal at Dahej in Gujarat. The work on the construction of the Dahej terminal commenced in January, 2001 and was completed in December, 2003. The commercial operations commenced in March-April, 2004. All the LNG deliveries have been on time. The project was completed in 36 months time.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, the Board of PLL have empowered a Search Committee to suggest the eligibility criteria for appointment to the post of CEO&MD, PLL.

Diversification of its activities by ONGC

91. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is exploring the option of diversification of its activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ONGC has signed any MoU for such diversified activites; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) From the national perspective of Energy Security, of which oil security is an essential component, ONGC remains committed to its core functions viz., the exploration and production of oil and gas. Diversification into other areas can only be supplemental to, and not at the cost of, concentration on its areas of core competence. While Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) are exploring various options for diversification of their activities by forward and backward integration, and in this context have signed the following Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)/Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with various agencies, the projects envisaged therein are at a conceptual stage only:—

(i) MOU with Gujarat Industrial Corporation Ltd. (GIDC) to create infrastructure facilities within the Dahej Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to facilitate setting up LNG based value addition projects.

(ii) MOU with Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) & Kanara Chamber of Commerce & Industry towards development of a Coastal SEZ at Mangalore, Karnataka.

(iii) MOU with Kakinada Seaports Ltd. (KSPL) & Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) for the development of Port-Based SEZ at Kakinada.

(iv) MOA with Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) for setting up a 750 MW combined cycle Gas Turbine power plant at Tripura in order to monetize its locked up assets in terms of isolated gas pools.